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"DRINK PURE, OR TASTE NOT."-Many young men have been transformed into brutes from the vile liquors imbibed in making New Year's calls. Families dis-pensing liquors on that day should purchase of Davis, 16 Ve-sey st., as he sells nothing that is not pure.

INSURES MEN OF ALL TRADES AND OCCUPA-

DAILY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum. SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$3 per a WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$2 per annum. Terms, cash in advance.
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## New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

THESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1875.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.-The floor of a church in Hellikon, Switzerland, gave way causing the death of 80 people. \_\_\_\_ The European grain trade was dull. = The bombardment of Hernani was continued. = The Press bill was being considered by the French National Assembly.

DOMESTIC.-Ex-Senator Wm. A. Richardson of Quincy, Ill., is dend. - The Governor's Canal sion made their twelfth report upon Auditor Thayer's case. \_\_\_\_ An international centennial yacht regatta in New-York harbor was officially announced, to be in charge of a committee, with Commodere Kingsland as chairman. ==== The anniversary of the battle of Trenton was observed at Trenton by a sham battle, speeches, and a dinner. = New-York State has 109 centenarians.

CITY AND SUBURBAN .- Plymouth Church decided to unite with Mrs. Moulton in calling a mutual council, the advisory council to be postponed. Mr. Beecher replied to recent criticisms on the course of the church. - The Senate Investigating Committee took testimony concerning the Public gested modifications of the shipping laws. A majority of the Aldermen voted for the contract system in extending the water-supply. Commissioner Wales made suggestions about dock improvements and supported the purchase of Pier No. 44 North River, === The less by the burning of the Hudson River Sugar Refinery at Hastings, N. Y., was over \$600,000. === The Brooklya Aldermen rejected William Marshall as President of the City Works Department, === Gold 1127s, 11234, 1127s. Gold value of the legaltender dollar at the close, 88 610 cents.

THE WEATHER.-The Government report predicts clear and cool weather. = In this city, yesterday, the day was sunny and mild; thermometer, 42°, 42°, 30°.

It is at least doubtful whether as a matter of fact Gen. Babcock designs to go before a committee of Congress, and whether as a matter of law he could thereby prevent evidence against him being used in the St. Louis court. But while the report may be baseless, it gives new reason for urging that Congress keep its hands off this case till the trial at St. Louis is finished.

The Methodist preachers who spoke yesterday against the Gray Nuns Act will meet with almost universal sympathy. How a body of rational legislators could have passed such an act is inconceivable. That any Legislature will dare, after the facts have been presented, to refuse to repeal it, is incredible. It is not in itself a thing of great consequence; but the principle underlying it is to the last degree vicious and dangerous.

Another vigorous effort is promised by the Shipowners' Association to unseat Capt. Duncan, the United States Shipping Commissioner. The quarrel is of long standing, and the shipowners have never relished interference with the business of shipping crews. But the benefit to poor Jack since the Shipping Commission began its work, is clearly evident; the old practices known as "shanghaing," by which boarding-house-keepers stripped sailors of their money and sent them to sea while drunk, are now comparatively rare.

Columbia resents with emphasis the insinuation, uttered at a meeting of Harvard students, that her place in the last regatta was won by professional oarsmen rather than by genuine students. The card of the Columbia Club President, as well as that of the President of the Princeton Club, elsewhere printed, may be taken as fair evidence of the temper with which all the other colleges receive the withdrawal of Yale and Harvard. They will be all the more sure, in consequence of this little spurt of hot blood, to make the Centennial regatta one well worth seeing.

If Judge Davis's decision, by putting the Bleecker Street Railroad into the hands of a ests will not be well served. A very consid-

agement would be hailed with delight; but credible that, by polling their full vote, the his persistence in staying. Very few Secrethe average experience of roads in the hands of a receiver does not foster such hope.

Two things are equally needful in respect to the work on the city's water-front; that it should be done well and cheaply, and that it should be pushed to completion without delay. The reasons why President Wales of the Dock Department regards the purchase of Pier 44, North River, as economical at \$250,000, are stated in our local columns. This is a question that should not be hard to determine if the personal feelings that have been aroused in the matter can be kept out of sight. If the work is delayed, the commerce of the port must suffer.

A list of the residents of this State who are more than a hundred years old is interesting at this Centennial period. The fact that the number of these is greater than at the previous ceasus will be accepted as proof that in good health at least our people are not degenerating. The large proportion of persons of Irish birth in the list is remarkable; there is, however, some evidence of its general accuracy, since it contains more women than men, which accords with the usual rule in tables of longevity that have been prepared by students of life insurance.

The contract system for city work grows in favor. By a close vote the Board of Aldermen has given it the preference over day labor in laying new mains for the Croton. Another witness has testified before the Senate Committee to the often repeated truth that the day laborers are mostly idlers. President Wales states that the Dock Department intends to employ the contract system as far as practicable, because the other method is poor economy. If contractors could be fully held to honest bargains by the departments under which they work, there would be no room for any difference of opinion on this subject.

Mrs. Moulton's new proposition and its acceptance by Plymouth Church have simplified the position. The preliminary correspondence has given both sides an opportunity to have their say, and each has declared its belief very distinctly. The new questions to be laid before the Mutual Council have the merit of being free from assuming the facts in the ease. They are sufficiently broad to draw out the facts-as far as testimony can give themif the Council wish to go into a complete exposition of the scandal; but people who have heard enough on that subject will not regard this feature of the questions as at all admirable, while those who have not had enough of it are not likely to be satisfied with the new installment, no matter what may be its quantity. One thing, at least, has been effected: by accepting Mrs. Moulton's proposal in the form in which she has put it, Plymouth Church has ended the discussion as to its fair dealing in the matter of calling the Council.

The letter on the organization of the House which we publish this morning comes from a friend of the Speaker, and undoubtedly expresses the principles which Mr. Kerr kept in view in the appointment of the Committees. We have found some of the selections unaccountable, and the neglect of some of the ablest and most valuable members apparently without excuse. On these points the letter before us offers nothing new. But it explains the general rale by which the Speaker has been guided; and no one can deny that it agrees strictly with the principles of the Demoeratic party. How far it may be desirable or practicable to apply this rule to the organization of committees depends upon the personnel of the House. Mr. Kerr is understood to hold that his first duty the right place, but to consult the wishes of thing and are suffering the same effects. The Works Department. Shipowners complained the numerical majority, and "if the people iron trade in Europe is as flat as it is in the of Commissioner Duncan's methods and sug-"House have not selected worthy representa-"tives, that is not the fault of the Speaker." Evidently this doctrine may lead to unfortunate consequences. Too scrupulous a care to apportion the chairmanships of committees on the basis of numbers may easily result in hampering the action of the House, or even throwing the control of public business into the hands of the minority. Mr. Kerr's action, however, will not be rashly judged. We shall wait for events to vindicate the wisdom of his

MR. MORTON'S PLAN. Mr. Morton has advices that things are in a one of the most conspicuous and lamentable failures in the whole scheme of reconstruction. Debt and taxes have risen and the value of filled with ignorant and venal judges. The most broken up; violence has become commachinery of government in certain localities matters worse, the press of the State has ceased to give a truthful picture of its condition. A very large portion-almost the whole of the Republican press has been directly subsidized by a villainous law for the distribution of public printing, and as a mendacity of one party we find the growth of an extreme partisan rancor in the other which fills the outside public with distrust. All this degeneration is the fruit of the same system by which Republican managers at Washington have manipulated South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, and the other prostrate States. It consists in sending leaders like Ames, Kellogg, Spencer, &c., to organize the ignorant blacks into a compact mass of voters, helping them when necessary with cavalry and deputy marshals, and passing enforcement laws to facilitate their operations. Mississippi has not been governed by her own people at any time since the war. She has been ruled and plundered

by a handful of foreign adventurers. The most effective agency in carrying out this despotic plan has been the registration Navy Department were not adapted to each law,-a law good enough perhaps in itself but capable of almost any abuse in its execution. did not want the department, nor the depart-By means of it white men have been illegally disfranchised, and the poll lists have been crowded with the names of real or imaginary negroes, only a small proportion of them, it is Jersey-we think it was in New-Jerseysaid, representing qualified voters. As a con- heard his country's call to the Navy Departsequence heavy Republican majorities have receiver, checks the proposed improvement in been steadily returned at all electionsits management and facilities, the public inter- until this year. Now, for the first time, the black vote dwindles away, and not impossible that he believes in himself; erable number of the people crossing Fulton the white Conservatives carry every- very probable, indeed, whether he does or not, kicking it. But is the Doctor certain that he is not Ferry is dependent for daily transit in this thing before them. The two races are that he has not discovered that nobody else a traveling advertisement? When his manager

Morton protests that they could not have carreported by those veracious chroniclers of political events, the Printing Ring press and the carpet-bag politicians; and so he insists upon an investigation.

We have no faith in his hair-raising stories of bloody persecution; but that there has been a certain amount of intimidation of a milder kind we think very probable. There have been very few general elections in any of the carpet-bag States since the war without intimidation either on one side or the other. Considering the character and consequences of negro rule in Mississippi, it is not surprising that the whites should at last have tried to frighten the colored people away from the polls, and resorted to unlawful if not actually violent means to rescue the State from impending rum. We do not excuse them. only say that their provocation has been extreme, and that the Mississippi Republicans -that is to say the office-holders-are chiefly responsible for the wrong. Now if Congress is to inquire into irregularities committed at the last election we insist that it shall make the inquiry thorough, and ascertain from what the irregularities took their vice. If it is to ask how the Administration party in Mississippi was overthrown, let it ask what kind of a party that was, and whether it had not invited its overthrow. A fair and energetic committee might do the country a great service by exposing the whole history of reconstructed Mississippi; but the day has gone by when any party could be served by a mere Outrage Report such as Senator Morton apparently wishes to prepare.

THE IRON TRADE.

There appears to be no change for the better in the condition of the iron trade. A large proportion of the furnaces and mills throughout the country remain idle, and few of the manufacturers who have had the courage to stand up against the pressure of the hard times and run their works find a balance on the profit side of their books, now that they come to figure up the results of the year's business. If they have earned running expenses they count themselves fortunate. The hopes entertained last Summer of a revival of trade in the Fall have proved illusive, and the disappointed ironmasters, tired of looking forward from Spring to Fall and from Fall to Spring for the long delayed renewal of activity, begin to fear that there is nothing in store for them next year, and to cease to peer into the future for encouraging signs. The depression is felt in all the iron producing districts to a nearly equal degree. The new industries of Alabama and Tennessee suffer as severely as the old establishments of Pennsylvania. In Missouri and Illinois there is said to be a little more doing, but not enough to make a noteworthy exception to the prevailing rule. No upward turn in prices has occurred. The market continues weak and is oppressed by the large stocks at the furnaces or in the hands of dealers. We hear of recent sales of pig metal at the lowest figure known

for the past twenty years. It is cold comfort when a man is sick to tell bim that all his neighbors are down with the same disease; and yet it may console him somewhat to reflect that he was no more careless than the rest of the community, and is not therefore punished for an exceptiona! transgression of nature's laws. Our iron men have the consolation, such as it is, of knowing that if they sinned against the laws of trade by over-producing and by a too great increase of manufacturing facilities, their rivals in England, Scotland and Belgrum did the same Is there any remedy for this state of things?

Patient waiting will in the end bring about a cure. There are too many furnaces and rollingmills in the country, but the time will comeand it is not very far off, we think-when there will be work for all of them. A vigorous young country like ours never stands still It steps now and then to take long. breath, but it starts on again with renewed energy. Its breathing-spells may last two or three years, but in life of a nation a year is only a minute in the shorter span of human existence. Before the close of the century our bad way in Mississippi. No doubt he is cor- forty millions of inhabitants will have inrectly informed. Things have been in a bad creased to sixty millions. For the added way there for several years. The Government | twenty millions there must be thousands of of the State has been a disgrace to America, miles of railroads built, thousands of iron bridges, thousands of iron ships, hundreds of thousands of dwellings, shops, and stores, all consuming iron in its countless property has declined. The courts have been forms. Especially it is to be noted as a fact full of hope for the future that the use of iron in executive offices have been parceled out architecture is as yet only in its infancy. But among Rings of thieves. Legislation for the present, our manufacturers have outhas been little more than an annual process of run the needs of the country. Production outjobbery. The order of society has been al- strips consumption. They mistook the spasmodic business activity that preceded the mon, and on several occasions recently the panic of 1873 for healthful, persistent energy. Many now look despairingly upon their fireless has been brought to a full stop. To make furnace stacks, and others regard with no more cheerful feelings the fast accumulating piles of metal unsold, and unsalable at remunerative prices. They must learn the lesson of patient waiting. The steadily increasing wants of our growing population will soon make a better market. natural consequence of the venality and Demand must one day overtake supply, and when it does it will be a steady, sure demandnot born of a vicious currency, of a mania for speculation, or of the building into Western wildernesses of railroads projected by sharpers to plunder people who bay their bonds or to make fat dividends for Crédit Mobilier construction companies.

SECRETARY ROBESON AND HIS ESTIMATES. Upon the whole we think it is not carrying it too far to pronounce our Secretary of the Navy a fully developed success. His predecessor was quite unlike him. For Mr. Adolph E. Borie was a gentle spirit, contented and unambitious, with sufficient means at his disposal to place him beyond want, and he discovered in a very few days that he and the other; that they were incompatible; that be ment him. Mr. Robeson is not that sort of man. When Mr. Robeson, from the door of his lawyer's office in Newment, he knew there was a crisis and that he was the man for it. He answered the call, and he has staid there ever since. And it is

Conservatives should honestly win. But Mr. taries have leaned against a door-post with so much dignity and composure, and lighted up ried the State without intimidating the other | the surroundings with such ruddiness. Very party. He has collected a long list of outrages few have done so much for the navy. As, for instance, in increasing the appropriations and estimates. He has made fewer men cost more money than any of his predecessors deemed possible. He has burst guns; had naval reviews; increased the number of the Marine Band; and as to the Marine Corps, his marines are a whole people, though he has only some 1,200 under pay. More than this, he has shown greater capacity for putting repairs on vessels than any mariner since Noah. He has made the navy-yards lively always just before elections, and so has contributed to the support of the Government at the Government expense by insuring Administration Congressmen in several doubtful districts. Done all this, and done it well, and for several years. We do not believe he has ever said to any contracting Zaccheus up a tree, "Come down;" but we do see by the tables that he has constantly said to the bald-headed estimates, "Go up." And the figures have obeyed.

No one can read the dispatch of our Washington correspondent published in yesterday's TRIBUNE without being struck with the ability Mr. Robeson has shown in his department. Vulgar clamor has never moved him; public opinion has rolled off him like water off a duck. When the people were crying for retrenchment he went calmly forward and increased his estimates. If there was any question raised with reference to the necessity for so large appropriations, he said, and all the department subordinates rolled aloft their eyes and united with desperate emphasis in saying, that it was simply impossible to get along with a cent less; that the navy would actually tumble to pieces with a dry rot if these appropriations were not kent up to the estimates. And now we find that "by a judicious and practical application " of what could be spared from the current ap-'propriations of the last five years no less than thirty new ships of war, single and 'double-turreted monitors and wooden ships, "have been built and equipped." Ability! Why ability is no name for it. The Secretary who can do that sort of thing deserves a brass statue on the top of the department building in the uniform of the Marine Band-red trousers and a trumpet. Other departments were economizing and retrenching, work on the public buildings was suspended, the brains of Congress were devoted to ways and means for raising money to carry on the Government, and there sat Robeson, unconscious that he was doing anything great or unusual, building up a navy out of what he had left over from his annual appropriations.

And still we fear, notwithstanding the great ability with which Mr. Robeson has administered the Navy Department and increased the expenses of the same, the present Congress will be very likely to scan his estimates suspiciously, and possibly cut them down a few trifling and insignificant millions. For this Congress has an abiding conviction that there's a President to be elected next year. A great many members of the majority have a singular sort of notion-it's uncharitable of course, but still they have it-that the money for instance for naval establishment and public works, for which the estimates call for four millions more than last year, might get strayed away into the hands of some committee who would use it to save the country by the ballot instead of by the naval arm. And they don't want it saved that way. First, because it would be a misappropriation of public funds, which they always oppose when the Administration is opposed to them; and second, because that way of saving the Government keeps it out of the hands of Democrats. So we greatly fear that some of Mr. Robeson's estimates will be cut down. Not that there is any doubt of crats to making appropriations for the use of Republican committees. We say this in order to prepare the Secretary's mind for such an event, and in the hope that his disappointment will not be serious.

The English papers are occupied just now with one of the most amazing exhibitions of snobbery ever seen in the British army. A young officer, having got drunk and behaved disgracefully in public, has been sentenced by the Duke of Camridge to wear his uniform constantly for one year. That is his soldier-clothes are considered as equivalent to a convict's garb, and the shame of wearing them when not on duty is regarded as equivalent to that which the striped jacket or the galley-brand brings upon another class of offenders. Nothing could more plainly mark the difference between the English and the Continental points of view in respect to military service. A German is as vain of his uniform as he is of his nationality. He would as soon thing of blaspheming Bismarck as of speaking disrespectfully of his pickelhaube. The Austrian trails his saber proudly through the graveled walks of the Volksgarten, and the Magyar would scorn to deprive the world of the privilege of admiring his shapely legs in their skintight integuments. Among the Latin soldiers there is the same matter of course acceptance of the theory that an officer of the army should not object to wearing its distinctive apparel. But in England the fashion has been set by those who are more swell than soldierly, that an officer shall never be seen in harness except on parade, and it has attained the force of a social law. Still it is none the less surprising that the Commander-in-chief should commit the blunder of joining in this movement against the uniform, by making it an absolute badge of disgrace. After his recent sentence, no officer, not under condemnation, will dare appear off duty in his army clothes, lest he should be mistaken for the young booby who is compelled to wear them. The affectation of being shamed of one's cloth has, like all other social affectations, comes over from England to America, and has infected most of the graduates of our Military Academy. They consider themselves bound as a general thing to wear mufti, because it is the Endish fashion, but they do it "with a difference" which makes it deliciously absurd. They almost always retain the army cap with their citizen's clothes. A young officer, walking up Broadway in a full suit of civilian's clothes, with a bright new blue cap with its bugies or crossed sahers, says to all judicious observers, as plainly as if he carried it on a placard on his back. Fellow-citizens, I am an officer of the Regular Army, but I want you to understand that I own other vestments besides my uniform." He wants to seem to desire to sink the shop, but he cannot find it in his heart to sink the sign. He ought to lay to heart the lines of the late Mr. Hood and reflect that "the love that loves an army coat should be more uniform"—or less so.

The Pallimore Bulletin says that when Dr. von Billow went to his first rehearsal in Baltimore he found a sign-board hanging on the piano with the maker's name blazoned on it. "I am not," he exclaimed, "a traveling advertisement," and snatching away the sign he laid it face downward on the floor. During one of the orchestral interludes he afterward picked up the hateful object and relieved his feelings by Ferry is dependent for daily transit in this thing before them. The two races are that he has not discovered that nobody else a traveling advertisement? When his manager ton into the Presidency almost against his wishes has city on the very imperfect convenience this nearly equal in Mississippi, the blacks being does. We give him great credit for his alac-

road offers. The prospect of its better man- somewhat in excess, and it does not seem in- rity in answering the call of his country, and Doctor should never play upon any other can tour, there was no misunderstanding about the bargain; it was a frank, straightforward advertising contract, and Dr. von Bülow consented to do his part in carrying it out. Other manufacturers and other pianists had made similar agreements before, and perhaps there would have been no great noise over this one but for the complications which it caused in the engagement of an orchestra, and the consequent injury to art. There has been, however, for some years a smoldering discontent in the public mind at the relations between pianomakers and piano-players. We remember a little sensation created once in the Academy of Music by a popular artist removing the sign-board from the piano in the midst of a concert. He did so only because the board rattled, being badly hung; but the audience did not know that, and there was much comment over the supposed revolt, while knots of professional pianists gathered in the lobby and wondered what it meant. There is nothing wrong of course in such bargains as the Chickerings made with Von Bülow, and the Steinways with Rubinstein; but we hardly think they will be profitable much longer. We have seen so much of the stage machinery this season that the illusion is nearly destroyed.

> Holidays sometimes give a great deal of trouble to people who have notes to pay. Where, for instance, a note was due Dec. 26, it had to be paid two days beforehand, and the same anticipation of payment must be made as to notes due Jan. 2. This inonvenience will be repeated next Winter, when Christmas and New Year's day fall upon Mondays. The circumstance of these holidays falling on Saturdays in one Winter and on Mondays the next, can only occur at long intervals; the last instance of the sort being the Winters of 1847-8 and 1848-9, the next, 1915-6 and 1916-7. The fact that 1900, though divisible by 4, is not a leap year, makes the coming interval before such an occurrence longer than the previous one. But the practice of celebrating a holiday the next day if it falls on a Sunday, adds largely to the frequency of years that present such inconvenience to note payers. These cears occur in groups of two and three. For this half century they may be enumerated as to Christmas as follows: 1852, '53 and '54; 1858 and '59; 1864 and '65; 1869, '70 and '71; 1875 and '76; 1880, '81 and '82; 1886 and '87; 1892 and '93; 1897, '98 and '99. To apply this list to New Year's day, of course one year later must be taken throughout. To most people, however, a Sunday and a holiday coming together give a welcome chance for mingling rest and recreation; and it is pleasant to know that this can be reckoned on as to Christmas, New-Year's day, or the Fourth of July, separately, in three years out of every seven.

> Gen. James B. Fry has contributed to the literature of the centennial period an interesting little pamphlet containing "A Sketch of the Adjutant-General's Department, U. S. Army, from 1775 to 1875." Its history of the organization of this important branch of the service is full, curious, and valuable, and it is supplemented by a transcript of various orders and resolutions relative to the department promulgated between 1778 and 1821. A chapter of general remarks on the duties of an adjutant-general, and a full register of the department, from the appointment of Horario Gates, the first Adjutant-General, in 1775, down to the present day, complete this clever piece of work, which will be useful to the historian as well as welcome to all officers of the army. The little book is printed for private distribution only.

> The announcement that Col. William M. Grosvenor has taken a prominent editorial place on The Financier, is to change its name to The Public, and to reenforce it by contributions from such men as Carl Schurz, David A. Wells, and Charles Francis Adams, jr., will give especial comfort to the little band of Revenue Reformers in this city, who have felt themselves of late insufficiently recognized by the press, Col. Grosvenor is one of the most copious and effective writers we have on politico-economical subjects. If there were any present chance of making the tariff a live issue, he would be apt to give vigor to the discussion. As it is, he and his associates will do excellent work in urging the establishment of our finances on a sound basis, and the speediest return to specie payments.

Ex-Senator Richardson, whose death was an nounced yesterday afternoon, was one of the old Douglas school of politicians in Illinois. He had more force than John A. Logan, and was more of a man, but, on sufficient provocation, he could probably make as long a speech with just as little in it.

PERSONAL.

Gov. Bedle of New-Jersey has received the legree of LL. D. from Princeton College Two of Mr. Tennyson's idyls, "Elaine" and Enid." have been translated into Spanish.

Charles Lamb, according to a new biographer, was one of a family of more than six children, in-stead of one of three, as generally recorded. Mr. Gladstone is busily engaged on his new

book on Homer, which will be an expansion of what he has already written for The Contemporary Ecricic on the same subject. Among the many other tokens of respect paid to Mr. Carlyle on his 80th birthday was an address

from the Chelsea, England, Literary and Scientific Insti-tution, of which he is a vice-president. A portrait of the venerable writer, bearing his autograph, has been hung up in the reading-room of the institution. The centenary of Goethe will be celebrated by the theater at Weimar in a series of representations of the principal dramatic works of the poet. The first

represented will be "Erwin and Claviso," to be followed

by "Iphigenia," "Forquato Tasso," "Stella," and "Egmont," terminating on March 22, 1876, the anniver-sary of the death of Goethe, when will be performed "Faust," newly arranged for the stage. An autotype fac-simile edition of Milton's Commonplace Book is to be published in London from the Mitten's handwriting from upward of 80 works read by him, and these notes are in general his deductions, and not mere extracts from the works read. There are other entries by four or five different hands, presumably made at Milton's deciation. The MS is quarto size, and contains 80 written pages. manuscript recently discovered. It contains notes i

The London Athenaum makes this announcement: "In response to the invitation of Mr. Charles Reade, an influential section of American authors. headed by the venerable poet William Cullen Bryant have offered themselves as members of the Association to Protect the Rights of Authors." The paragraph doubt-less refers to a series of signatures to a paper in favor of international copyright procured by Mrs. Fanny Barron, the sister of Mr. Richard Grant White, shortly after the publication of Mr. Reade's letters on International Copy-

right in THE TRIBUNE. POLITICAL NOTES.

Secretary Bristow Presidential stock is shootg upward with unprecedented rapidity. The report comes from New-Orleans that Pinchback has given up the fight, and will resign, in order that his successor may be chosen before the present

Ex-Congressman Niblack and Congressman Holman seem to have about equal chances for the Demoeratic nomination for Governor of Indiana. Either one would be a creditable choice.

There is considerable talk in Mississippi of amending the Constitution, so that no citizen can vote unless he can read and write, and the Democratic press is calling upon the Legislature to prepare such an amend-ment for submission to the people. There is probably no simpler, and on the whole more satisfactory remedy, for the ills from which the body politic is suffering in Mississippi.

Gov. Allen of Ohio is experiencing the bitterness of human infidelity. He smothered his life-long convictions and simulated a fondness for the rag buby because his friends told him that was a sure way for him to become President. Now those same friends are convinced that the Governor has outlived his usefulness and that George H. Pendleton is their ideal for a Presi-dential candidate.

Every well regulated Presidential candidate is impressed just now with the necessities of making a Southern tear. Mr. George H. Pendieton started for has made as good a choice as he could from the ma-Florida the other day, but before he got anywhere near there he was detained, and has been turning up in nearly every prominent Southern city since. Of course he is overwhelmed with surprise at the number of times he is nominated for the Presidency, as he is only on a pleasure trip. This tendency of the people to thrust Mr. Pendle-

covered that he possesses a valuable amount of informs covered that he possesses the managers of the Southern Agricultural and Industrial Exposition having in some way heard of the fact, the Governor is going to address them at New-Orleans on Feb. 26. The Governor is not anspected of any intention of making the journey incognite or solely by night trains.

Judge Kelley can find the depraved wretch who wrote the following paragraph at The Boston Herald office: "If the only objection to Mr. Morrison, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, was that he is not a talker, we could get over it easily. It is said that a builet in his lungs makes him refrain from talking. What a blessing it would be if such a Congressman as Judge Kelley, for instance, could have a small cannon-ball in his lungs.

Mr. Oliver Hoyt of Stamford is spoken of by the Republican journals of Connecticut as the possible candidate of their party for Governor. Mr. Hoythas been a merchant in New-York City for many years, and is vouched for by The Norwalk Gazette as a "good Methedist." Is it proposed to make the canvass on the Methodist issue and have Bishop Haven stumps on the If it is there are several worldly persons who are anxious to bet on the other man. Charles Nordhoff, in the character of a

Methodist layman, enters a ringing protest against the effort of any Methodist Bishop to commit the Church to a third term. He says that Bishop Haven has done a great deal at the South to widen the breach between Northern and Southern Methodists, and to weaken the bond of brotherhood between the sections, or at least to increase caused of irritation. He closes a letter to The Herald on the subject by a sharp complaint of the conduct of Methodist clergymen, in endcavoring to use their influence at the White House for political purposes. He says of this course: "It seems to me dishonorable, and they of this course: "It seems to me dishonorable, and they have undoubtedly and within my own painful experience brought contempt and disgrace upon the Methonist name by such misconduct. In my judgment and in that of many other Methodists the favor in which our more prominent elergy have been held at the White House, and consequently in the departments, during a number of years, has had an avil indusence upon them, and has worked badly for the church. For my part I should be very happy if the next President should prove to have an unconquerable aversion to all Methodist chergymen. It would be a fortunate thing for the denomination."

Anditor Thaver's case grows worse and worse. A table in The Albany Argus of the certificates which he purchased during the last year, amounting to \$323,437 47, shows that Mr. Thayer always paid himself promptly, the times varying from four to 30 days, so that instead of receiving "simple interest," as Mr. Thayer innocently called it, for his money, he lent money in reality at rates varying from 80 to 600 per cent, and even more. The discount was not less than 7 per cent, and sometimes reached 10, beside accrued interest. In the Baxter case, for instance, Mr. Thayer's "simple interest" was at the rate of 120 per cent! This Shylock seems to have shaved the Canal Ring pretty close.

Among his customers were H. D. Denison, to the amount Among his customers were it. D. Denison, to the almount of nearly \$70,000; J. Y. Boomer, Willard Johnson's double, nearly \$50,000; J. Y. Boomer, Willard Johnson's double, nearly \$50,000, and other lesser lights of the King. While it may be a satisfaction to know that not all the money stolen from the State by the cannot in the least consoling to find that it was appropriated by a third who had not even their fraudulent title to it.

HOUSE ORGANIZATION.

DEFENSE OF SPEAKER KERR-CONSIDERATIONS RESPECTING THE ADJUSTMENT OF COMMITTEES-WHY THE LEADING CHAIRMANSHIPS WERE GIVEN TO THE WES1-MORRISON, COX, AND OTHERS EEPRESENT THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY, o the Editor of the Tribune.

SIR: Certain considerations respecting the adjustnent of committees have been generally overlooked, which nevertheless deserve especial attention, alike by those who wish intelligently to sustain and by hose who wish fairly to criticise the course of Speaker Kerr. These considerations I will endeavor

o state impartially.

Prior to the war the South largely controlled legisation, because the older and more experienced mempers of the dominant party, who were naturally selected for the charge of important committees, vere from that section. Since 1860, for the same eason the East has enjoyed a predominant influence in the House. In the Democratic party the Southern members formed a majority, and naturally influenced its cearse; in the Republican party, when the South was nearly unrepresented, the Eastern members formed a majority and held a controlling influence. It is a law of legislative bodies, the observance of which is essential to their efficiency in practical work, that such bodies shall be organized in harmony with the will of their controlling elements, and any Speaker who should disregard this law would be subject to serious and just criticism. The people decide by their ballots what elements shall prevail, and it is the duty of a Speaker to give effect to their

Mr. Kerr has ! been chosen Speaker of the first House elected since the completion of redistricting onsequent upon the apportionment of 1870. That apportionment gave for the first time in our history to States west of those bordering on the Atlantic a clear majority of members, and in consequence it beame the duty of the Speaker to award a predominant influence in legislation to members from Western States, in so far as the interests of those States differ from those of the Atlantic States. Had Mr. Kerr declined to do so, he would have been guilty of iolating a law essential to the efficiency of legislaive bodies, which the House itself had observed in electing him, a member from a Western State, though by votes east largely by Eastern members. But during the past fifteen years the Democratic party has had power in very few Western districts, and it elected from the South in 1874 very few members of legislative experience prior to the war. In order to select Democrats from the West for committees in which Western States felt an especial interest, the Speaker was compelled in several instances to choose comparatively new men, passing over others from the East of larger legislative experience. This naturally creates some dissatisfaction, but so far as it was the necessary consequence of an ndeavor to regard the will of the majority, it does not deserve censure.

Undoubtedly a majority of the members of the

House favor a sound currency. It was not merely

the privilege but the duty of the Speaker to select Chairmen of the Committee of Ways and Means and of Banking and Currency whose views on that question were those which the House had approved in his own election. In like manner a majority of members doubtless favor a revenue tariff, and, although many may dissent from them, they cannot blame the Speaker because the wishes of the majority have been consulted in the organization any more than inflationists can blame him because they were not allowed to control the organization. Mr. Morrison of Illinois is a very positive advocate of hard money and of what is commonly called free trade, and, being a Western Democrat, he fairly represents in essential respects the elements which the Speaker was bound to consider. It is well that he is a man of upright character and unstained record, and it will rest with him to prove whether in point of ability he is equal to the position. At all events, he is probably as well qualified as any other North-Western Democrat in the House, and the selection of a Southern member would have exposed the party to an attack which would have been quite effective, however unjustifiable. Mr. Cox, Chairman of the Banking and Carrency Committee, also represents the prevailing sentiment of the House in essential particulars, the more because, though now from this city, he was formerly a member from Obio. The same regard for the wishes of Western members is evinced in the selection of Mr. Knott of Kentucky for the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Clark of Missouri for the Postal Committee, Mr. Lamar of Mississippi for the Committee on Pacific Railroads, Mr. Milliken of Kentacky for the Committee on Public Expenditures, Mr. Holman of Indiana for the Committee on Public Buildings, and Mr. Jones of Kentucky for the Committee on Roads and Caunts.

In some of these instances the members selected will probably prove not especially competent; but if the people who elect the numerical majority in the House have not selected worthy representatives, that is not the fault of the Speaker. The fair questerials at his disposal and in accordance with the rules which limit him in the organization. If the elements which he was bound to consider are not such as should control, or if they are represented in-adequately, the responsibility rests rather with the people, and especially with the Democratic party, than with the Speaker. Yours, Acto-Fork, Dec. 24, 1875.